

ren of hers in the saddest of plights; it seems only natural, therefore, that she should extend a helping hand to them.

Yes, the state of the sinner is indeed a sad one. By his sin he has reared a wall of separation between God and himself. God has withdrawn from him, and where before, under the beneficent action of sanctifying grace, were riches, light, beauty, and all manner of ineffable gifts, there remain only darkness, nudity, dryness, and desolation. To divine life has succeeded spiritual and supernatural death. The transformation somewhat resembles a certain sad spectacle occasionally witnessed in nature. When, in the spring, the warm rain and sun clothe field and forest with life and greenness, the hope of a plentiful harvest fills the breast of the husbandman. It imparts strength to his arm and joy to his heart. And as the growth progresses, the exultation of his spirit increases apace. But, lo! an unexpected frost comes, and all is changed. The bright morning sun no sooner looks out from the horizon than all those plants, yesterday so full of life and promise, hang their heads in death. Outwardly all is ruin; in the peasant's heart, desolation.

The above is a true though inadequate picture of what sin does. The Holy Spirit, by His presence and the action of His grace, imparts fruitfulness to the soul in peace with its Creator. The noblest inspirations spring up therein, and bespeak a rich harvest. But sin's withering blast strikes that soul and all is changed. The disaster is complete. No more spiritual life, no more available merits for Heaven. The devil, by means of sin, has taken possession and forthwith sets about exciting the basest passions and exercising the most tyrannical and degrading mastery over his slave.

Oh, how many souls there are in this world in whom are realized these words of our Lord: "Amen, amen I say to you, that whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin." (St. John viii. 34.) They are in constant evidence and display before our very eyes their shameful excesses. As true